Introduction

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Why research religion?

1. Religion is everywhere
The world is becoming more religious—NOT LESS!
Why research religion?

2. Religion plays a crucial role in human culture and intersects with all aspects of society
3. It is highly influential

‘Leaders in public life need to recognize that in a world where people of all religious traditions are migrating and mingling like never before, we ignore the global impact of religion at our peril.’

- John Kerry
‘One of the most interesting challenges we face in global diplomacy today is the need to fully understand and engage the great impact that a wide range of religious traditions have on foreign affairs. I often say that if I headed back to college today, I would major in comparative religions rather than political science. That is because religious actors and institutions are playing an influential role in every region of the world and on nearly every issue central to U.S. foreign policy.’

John Kerry

Discover the world at Leiden University
Why Study Religion in Leiden?

1. We offer a truly global and comparative programme
3. We are truly multi-disciplinary

- Anthropology
- Sociology
- History
- Psychology and Cognitive Science
- Law and Journalism
- International Relations and Political Science
- Philosophy
- Public Policy
- Philology
- Literary Studies
Our programme

Two Core Courses

Religion Explained: From Cognitive Foundations to Social Realities (10)

Religion on the Move: From Local Origins to Global Networks (10)
Our programme

(1) Global perspective

(2) Focus on using historical depth to understand religion today

(3) Strong in analytical skills that will serve you for any type of job

(4) Room for specialisation
# Masterprogramme, 60 EC

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Electives

Electives taught in the past by Religious Studies
Psychology of Religion
Rethinking Secularism in International Relations
The Holy Book: Its Changing Status in the Early Modern and Modern Era
Sacred Journeys: Pilgrimage and Holy Places
Sharia in the West

Some electives taught in the past by other departments on religion
Religious Themes in Asian Art
Confucianism, Idealism and Power in East Asia’s Past and Present
Modern Muslim Qur’an Interpretation
Ulama in the Modern Muslim World
‘Everyone will fear you’: Powerful objects in ancient religions

Information courses: online e-prospectus. Electives are yearly changing!!
Internship

• Three types

• 1. Internal research internship (with staff member)
• 2. External research internship (e.g., with government body)
• 3. Normal internship (e.g., with museum)

• NB: Internships are subject to availability and admission requirements/application processes
Master Thesis

Your own original research
20 EC = 13.000 – maximum 15.000 words

Examples of titles:

The Crystal Skull Narrative: Developing Theory and Methodology for the Study of Composite Myths in New Religious Movements

A Comparison of Relapse Rates after Religion-based and Non-religion-based Rehabilitation for Drug and Alcohol Addiction

An Exploratory Research in the Motivation of Dutch Syrian Fighters

One Tongue or Many? A Negotiation of Global and Local through the English Language in a Dutch Neo-Pentecostal Church
Job Market Preparation

• Meet alumni in various jobs
• Workshops on resume writing, job application, and more

• Students actively involved in organising the activities
• Unique among the humanities programmes in Leiden
Student’s Perspective

• International Classroom

• Informal and personal atmosphere

• Student life: T.F.L.S.
Entry Requirements

Direct Admission:

Bachelor’s programmes from Leiden University:

• Religious Studies, Theology and Islamic Studies
• World Religions and Islamic Theology
Entry Requirements

Direct Admission:

An academic Bachelor degree in Humanities or Social Sciences + the minor Religion in a changing World.

However: need to submit an online application
Entry Requirements

Bachelor degree in **Humanities or Social Sciences** + minor **Religion in a changing World**

= 

You should register for your master’s in Studielink **before 1 December** for start in February 2019 and **before 15 June** for start in September 2019

**Without a** recommendation letter and without a motivation letter
Entry Requirements

• A good command of English

IELTS 7.0 or TOEFL 100 (internet-based), or Cambridge: proficiency (CPE)
Premaster programme

Contact the Study Coordinator for information on the possibility of a bridge programme if you have a:

- Bachelor’s degree from another university
- Professional education (HBO)
- Master’s degree in another field of study
Application

• Application deadlines:

International students who need a visa, residence permit or housing

1 November for start in February 2019

Students who do not need a visa, residence permit or housing can generally observe a more generous deadline:

1 December for start in February 2019
Application Deadlines

Online Application

• Start in February 2019

1 November 2018: visa, housing
1 December 2018

• Start in September 2019

1 April 2019: visa, housing
15 June 2019
After your master

• Teacher training (lerarenopleiding) at ICLON
  • Dutch taught
  • One year
  • Both a Bachelor and a Master degree in Religious Studies (or closely related)

• Professional career

• PhD Candidate
Your future field of work?

Examples of employment from Graduates from Religious Studies:

- **Teacher** of religion education
- **PhD candidate** at an international university
- **Member of the City Council** of Leiden
- Member of Staff at the **Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment**
- **Consultant** at McKinsey
- **Member of staff** at the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND)
- **Journalist**
- **Traineeship** Municipality The Hague
Your future prospects?

- 93% of Religious Studies alumni find a job within 2 months.

- 73% immediately find a professional university or academic level job.

- More or less 48% find first job through their personal network (family, friends, lecturers, internship, job)

- 27% find their first job via vacancy, 6% are asked to continue to work at the organization of their internship.
What kind of preparation works?

- **A master’s degree pays off**: In their first job, master’s students often occupy higher-level positions than bachelor’s students.
- Graduates with **internship experience** are more likely to have obtained the job they wanted: 56% compared to graduates who did not have this experience: 48%.
- **Relevant (part-time) work experience** also has a positive effect on obtaining the job you aspire to have: 56% of graduates with work experience compared to 46% of graduates without work experienced obtained their **desired** job.
- Contact our **Student Career Service** for advice on internships and work: [hum.leiden.edu/careerservice](http://hum.leiden.edu/careerservice)

If you want to find out more, visit our Career Service at the information market, solve the puzzle and **you might win a tablet!**
Questions?